

## SUNGO CFLI TRAINING PROJECT - END OF PROJECT REPORT

<b>1. Project Number:</b>	<b>CFLI-2019-WLGTN-WS-0003</b>
<b>2. Country:</b>	<b>SAMOA</b>
<b>3. Recipient Organization:</b>	Samoa Umbrella for Non Governmental Organisations Inc (SUNGO)
<b>4. Descriptive Project Name</b>	Building the capacity and understanding of civil society organisations to engage with democratic processes and institutions in Samoa
<b>5. Thematic Priority</b>	Inclusive governance, including diversity, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.
<b>6. Sub-Theme</b>	Democracy
<b>7. Type of Project</b>	Canada Fund Local Initiative Wellington Embassy
<b>8. Project Location:</b>	Savaii Island Upolu Island



## 10. Project Objective:

The goal of this project was to provide CSOs with a greater understanding of Government mechanisms, for example government departments/ministries, parliament and parliament committees and agencies such as the office of Ombudsman. The project also aimed to build capacity of CSOs in basic research and advocacy skills.

The specific objectives for this project were to:

- i) develop and design training materials particularly on enhancing engagement of CSOs in Government processes
- ii) conduct five (5) training workshops for NGOs and CBOs in Samoa.

The project objectives were fully achieved. SUNGO contracted a local consultant, the TNT Global Consult, to design and test the training materials. The materials were reviewed and finalized by SUNGO. It was then translated into Samoa by the consultants. This process was completed by 12 January 2021.

There were five training workshops conducted for Civil Society Organisations; one for national NGOs held in Apia, three for Community Based Organisations held on Upolu and one for Savaii CBOs. All workshops were completed during March 2021 with a full complement of participants. Course objectives were met through analysis pre- and post-questionnaires. In addition, individual evaluations were undertaken. Participants acknowledged the value of the workshops to increase their personal understanding of the Government processes and undertook to take this training back to their individual CSOs so they can contribute to law making.

## 11. Project Activities:

There were three key project activities

- i) *consult and engage subject matter experts to design and write materials. Summarise and translate materials into Samoan.*
- ii) *Develop a full training plan and undertake a training of trainers*
- iii) *Conduct five workshops using the above training plan and materials*

As outlined in Section 10, SUNGO contracted a local consultant, the TNT Global Consult, to design and write the training materials. The design of the training materials was significantly delayed because of changes to some key government legislation that was being used for the training.

TNT Global consultant, Peseta Arasi Tiotio conducted a one day training of trainers on 29 January 2021. The original activity was to deliver a three day workshops, but after reviewing the training materials provided it was considered that a two day workshop would be sufficient. A two day training plan with relevant exercises and examples was developed by Faapito Opetaiia, Capacity Building Coordinator. Eleven community trainers and three SUNGO staff attended the TOT training; seven females and seven males, a perfect gender balance. All trainers were required to (1) become familiar with the detailed training plan (2) be able to present the materials and (3) understand and assist participants to engage with the exercises. Further preparation sessions with the community trainers were conducted by the CBC.

The training materials were summarised and printed for five training workshops. These included the process charts, summary theory handouts and copies of presentations. The process charts were also posted on SUNGO's office display for members and visitors.

The following workshops were conducted:

#	Training	Dates	Venue	Trainers	Staff
1	National NGOs	18 - 19 March 2021	SUNGO Training Room	Lemalu Shirley Auvele (Lead), Tamalemai Apelu Imeleta Iosefo	CBO
2	CBOs Uplou	22 - 23 March 2021	SUNGO Training Room	Imeleta Iosefo (Lead) Tamalemai Apelu	SUNGO Research Officer
3	CBOs Uplou	24 - 25 March 2021	SUNGO Training Room	Imeleta Iosefo (Lead) Tamalemai Apelu	SUNGO Research Officer
4	CBOs Savaii	23 - 24 March 2021	JetOver Training Room	Lemalu Shirley Auvele (Lead) Saimasi Aso CBO Faapito	CBO
5	CBOs Uplou	29 - 30 March 2021	SUNGO Training Room	Lemalu Shirley Auvele (Lead) Saimasi Aso	SUNGO Research Officer

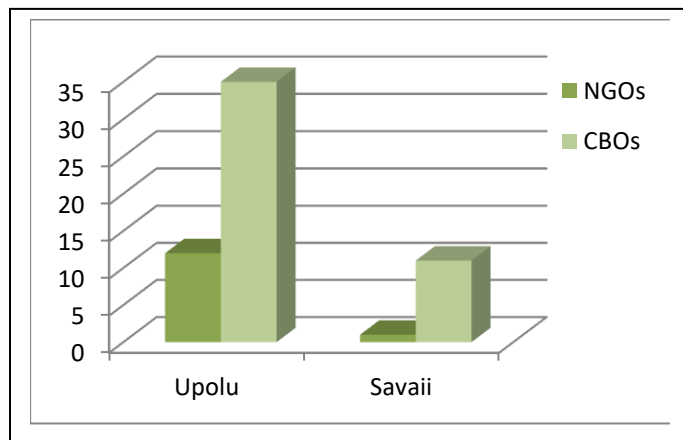
All training workshops planned were well conducted and completed as scheduled. There were no significant issues or problems arising during the training.

## 12. Project Results:

The planned project results for this project were:

- CSOs have an improved understanding of the structure of government in Samoa; the different levels of government; how legislation and policies are created and implemented.
- CSOs have an improved understanding of the various avenues of engagement and key accountability mechanisms within and outside of government.
- CSOs have an improved understanding of and capability to conduct evidence-based advocacy. CSOs have increased capacity to facilitate effective outcomes through the political process.

SUNGO considers that these results were successfully achieved. The training materials developed were found to be effective during the training courses. The five training workshops conducted on both Upolu and Savaii islands were successfully completed. SUNGO aimed to have 20 people at each workshop. A total of 94 people attended the 5 workshops, representing 59 different member organisations, 13 NGOs and 46 CBOs. Both rural and urban sectors were represented.



The training was planned to be very interactive with open discussion and several exercises, both in pairs and groups. The final activity involved participants in groups discussing one of three proposed new laws, to decide how it would affect the Samoa population, its advantages and disadvantages. The proposed new laws were; Legalisation of abortion, legalisation of same sex marriage, alienation of customary land. Each group then presented a summary of its conclusions. There was then a discussion about how these key points could be written up into a submission to the relevant government agency or to a parliamentary committee.

The improved understanding of the participants was measured by a simple pre and post questionnaire of ten questions. 91 of the 94 participants completed both pre- and post- questionnaires. These were marked by the Lead trainers and analysed by the SUNGO CBC

	Minimum	Maximum	Average
Pre-questionnaire scores	0	75%	25%
Post-questionnaire scores	33%	100%	63%
Increase in learning			38%

15 of the 91 participants did not attain 50% in the post-questionnaire score.

SUNGO's bench mark for successful training is a 30% increase in learning. Samoa is an oral society and many people find written work difficult. The increase of learning of 38% is therefore considered a very good result.

One staff attended each training to assist with organisation, training and also to provide some monitoring. The Research Officer, attended all the Uplou CBO trainings. He assisted the trainers with a Powerpoint presentation and also discussed issues with participants on a 1-1 basis. He recorded these issues as they will assist with the research and advocacy programme that SUNGO is developing. See Appendix 1.

At the end of each workshop, participants also completed a satisfaction questionnaire. Comments and feedback from all participants were very positive. Many commented on their specific learnings, especially on the Constitutional Arrangement of Samoa.

Ms Tasi Siaosi, the representative of the Samoa Youth Council asked where the rights of Samoan youths lie in the development triangle and the constitution. She said that the Samoan Youth Council's decision to become an independent party was a product of the Government's lack of commitment to youth participation in village decision-making and youth rights.



Mr. Su'a Louis Schwalger, a representative of the SAME Organization, discussed the importance of recognizing the roles and processes of the development triangle. He noted that while he has a basic understanding of Samoan democracy, he had gaps. These trainings have aided him in better understanding his organization's place and function within the private and civil society sectors, particularly in light of any government amendments that may affect the two sectors.

Participants were asked to commit themselves to taking their learnings back to their individual organisation and share it. This commitment was given.

Many participants indicated they would like the training to be repeated so that other members of their organisations could attend.

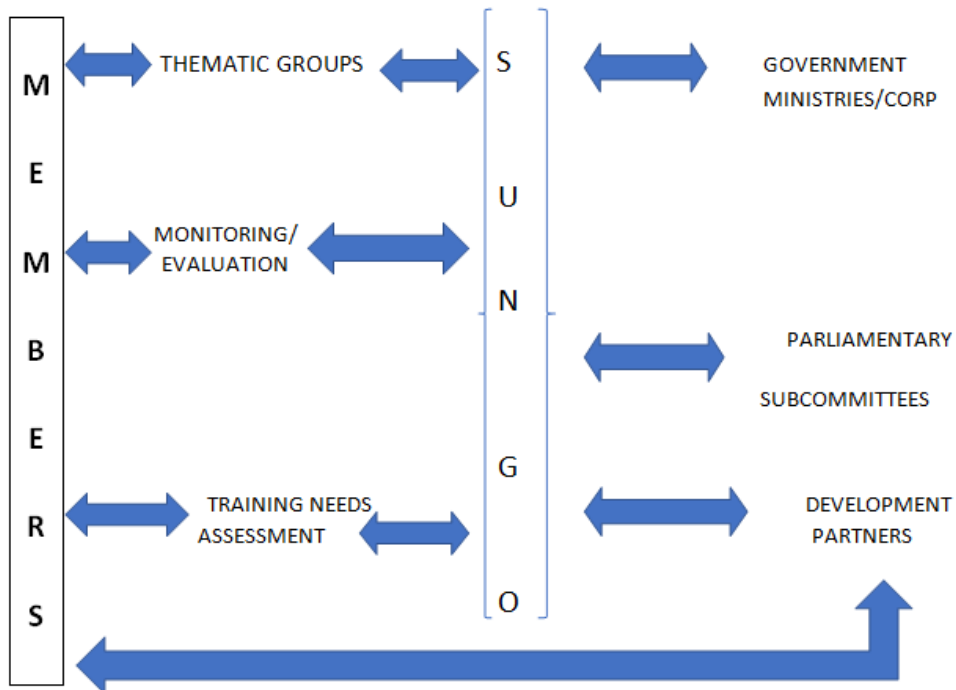


Young women from two Savai'i youth CBOs based in villages of Saasaai and Iva



Savai'i Workshop - Group presenting their final exercise: "Legalising Abortion"

The training also finalised the **SUNGO Advocacy Process** for SUNGO and its members to effectively contribute to making laws and policies that affect the lives of the Samoan community. See below. This process will be taken to the SUNGO Executive Council for formal approval and be included in SUNGO's policies and procedures.



It should also be noted that this project designed a training programme that can be reviewed, improved and offered again in the future.



### 13. Partners:

There were no international partners involved in this project apart from Canada Fund. The only local partners involved with this project was the consulting firm TNT Global Consult who prepared the training materials and conducted the Training of Trainers.

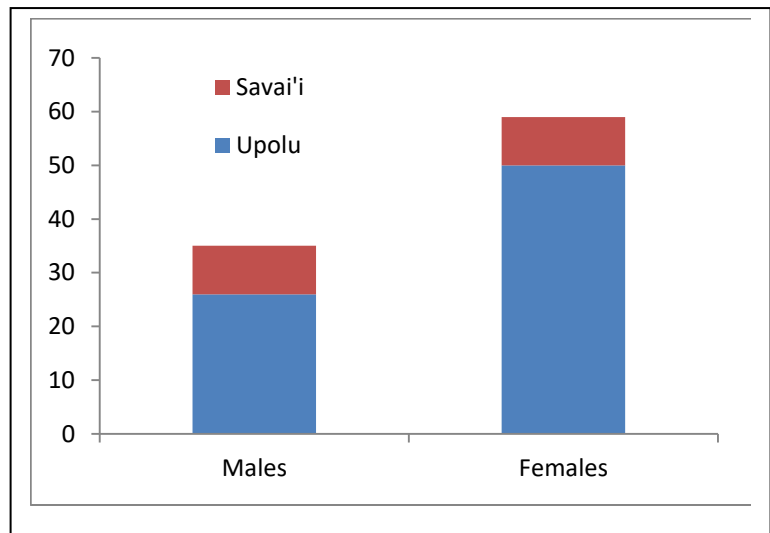
### 14. Beneficiaries:

#### The immediate beneficiaries

There were 94 immediate beneficiaries in this project, the participants of the five workshops

	Males	Females
Upolu	26	50
Savai'i	9	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>59</b>

Age Grp	Males	Females
<18 Yrs	3	5
18–35 Yrs	13	11
36–59 Yrs	13	36
60+	6	7
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>59</b>



In addition, the SUNGO training team and three staff, a total of 7 males and 7 females, were also direct beneficiaries. They significantly increased their knowledge in this area and are now able to train this course.

### 15. Gender Equality Results:

SUNGO works hard to encourage women's participation in all SUNGO activities; workshops, forums, consultations etc to ensure a gender balance. The above table of data shows that 65% of the beneficiaries were women.

In addition, part of the training of trainers focuses on techniques to ensure all participants, but especially women and young people are encouraged to speak and share experiences with the wider group. This is important in Samoa where the village matai structure gives them a respected place, and often more speaking opportunities in gatherings. The training plan for this project emphasised the important in giving those who voices are not often heard the chance to present their views on a variety of issues. This aspect of the training was particularly successful.

### 16. Advocacy & Communications (if applicable):

#### Advocacy

As mentioned in Section 12, the Research Officer, attended all three Upolu CBO trainings and discussed issues with participants on a 1-1 basis. He recorded these issues as they will assist with the research and advocacy programme that SUNGO is developing.

*“The unit's ability to participate, listen, and observe various attitudes and beliefs exhibited by participants has created ideas about how to handle each person when visiting their organizations for the soon-to-be-launched survey, which is set to begin late April or early May 2021.”*

## Communications

The SUNGO Information and Communications Officer effectively advertised the programme and its funding by the Canadian Government by

- posting regular updates for each training session on the SUNGO facebook page and noting the funding by the Government of Canada.
- a media release was made at the end of the five training workshops.
- This project will reported in SUNGO's quarterly newsletter which is distributed to all members and in SUNGO's Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2021

## 17. Financial Management:

*Was the project completed within the approved budget as outlined in Annex A of the Contribution Agreement?* YES

The detailed Financial report has been sent as a separate Excel file.

Each activity was either within or below budget. Within each activity, however, there were "ups and downs" as some expenditure estimates were not accurate or not anticipated. Printing of all course materials, a SUNGO contribution, was under estimated. In addition, there was vehicle use for the workshop organisation which has also been added as a SUNGO contribution.

## 18. Lessons Learned

There were significant time delays with this project because of the COVID epidemic and the restrictions on gathering. When these restrictions were lifted, SUNGO and a backlog of training to complete. There was also a significant time delay with the completion of the design of the training materials by the Consultant. Discussion on time frames on this could have been more thorough prior to the contract signing. SUNGO management will ensure this is done better in the future.

Generally the training organisation and course delivery went well. As part of its training process, the CBC has a debrief with the trainers. She will address any issues that have come up in the training.

As this is the first training that SUNGO has designed on engaging in the democratic process, the training plan and materials will be reviewed and improved by the training team. The CBC will investigate if this training could qualify as a SQA (Samoa Qualifications Authority) accredited course. The community training team also expressed their gratitude in having a new course to teach and one that relates so positively to their communities.

SUNGO staff have also highly valued the training as it will contribute significantly to its advocacy role and research functions. In particular, the newly appointed Research Officer learnt new skills and made some good community connections that will be very useful in the future with research projects.

SUNGO is sincerely grateful to the Canadian Government for this funding support, without which SUNGO would not have been able to design a new training source and undertake these five training workshops.

**Submitted by:**



**Fuimaono Vaitolo Ofoia**  
**8 April 2021**



CBO representatives from across Upolu participating in the CBO workshops for Upolu Island. Lead trainer, Ime Iosefo, photo below, bottom left, in red.



The Lalomanu Farmers Association's representative comments on the importance of not combining religious and political viewpoints. *"We must not confuse democratic rules with religious laws. However, these may assist one another in a variety of situations."*